
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MARINE LIFE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature recognizes that marine life
2 conservation districts are areas worthy of appropriate
3 designation and treatment due to their location and
4 environmental and scenic importance. Offshore marine life
5 conservation districts allow limited commercial access and
6 provide a protected area for aquatic life. Marine life
7 conservation districts are most popularly used for snorkeling,
8 diving, and underwater photography.

9 The purpose of this Act is to preserve and protect offshore
10 marine life conservation districts by capping the number of
11 commercial use permits that may be granted and limiting access
12 to a per cent of those holding marine life conservation district
13 commercial use permits.

14 SECTION 2. Section 190-4.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 "§190-4.5 Anchoring, boating, and mooring in marine life
17 conservation districts; rules. (a) The department shall,



1 pursuant to chapter 91, adopt rules for the regulation of
2 anchoring and mooring in each marine life conservation district
3 established under this chapter.

4 (b) For any marine life conservation district not
5 accessible by land:

6 (1) There shall be no more than a total of forty marine
7 life conservation district commercial use permits;
8 provided that the department shall not issue any new
9 permits in a respective marine life conservation
10 district after forty permits have been issued for that
11 marine life conservation district; and

12 (2) Access by commercial use permittees at any one time
13 shall be limited to no more than fifty per cent,
14 rounded to the lesser of the nearest whole number, of
15 the current number of permit holders.

16 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) Within its jurisdiction over ocean recreational
17 boating and coastal activities, the department shall adopt rules
18 pursuant to chapter 91 for the regulation of boating in each
19 marine life conservation district established under this
20 chapter."



1 SECTION 3. The department of land and natural resources
2 shall immediately initiate rulemaking pursuant to chapter 91,
3 Hawaii Revised Statutes, for management changes to address
4 concerns regarding overcrowding and fish disruption at Molokini
5 shoal marine life conservation district.

6 SECTION 4. The department of land and natural resources
7 shall submit a report to the legislature on its rulemaking
8 progress no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the
9 regular session of 2020.

10 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Molokini Marine Life Conservation District; DLNR; Permits;
Access

Description:

Prohibits the issuance of more than forty marine life conservation district commercial use permits for any marine life conservation district not accessible by land. Limits access by commercial use permittees to any marine life conservation district not accessible by land to no more than fifty per cent of permit holders. Requires the department of land and natural resources to immediately initiate rulemaking. (SD2)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

